

RESPONSE
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8. (Amended) A spindle motor for use in a disc drive comprising a shaft supporting a thrust plate at one end thereof, a sleeve surrounding the shaft and adjacent the thrust plate and cooperating with the shaft to define a journal bearing and the thrust plate to define a fluid thrust bearing, a counterplate supported between upraised axial arms of said sleeve and located adjacent said thrust plate, means for containing fluid within the thrust bearing and the journal bearing.

Please add the following new claims 9 and 10:

9. (New) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 1 wherein said counterplate and said thrust plate define a second fluid dynamic thrust bearing and the welded counterplate contains fluid within the second thrust bearing.

10. (New) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 8 wherein said counterplate and said thrust plate define a second fluid dynamic thrust bearing and said means for containing fluid contains fluid within the second thrust bearing.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-8 are pending in the application, and that claims 1-8 are rejected. By this response, claims 1 and 8 are amended, claims 2-7 continue unamended, and claims 9-10 are newly added. In view of the following discussion, Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in condition for allowance.

I. OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) and §1.83(b). Specifically, the Examiner stated that "the journal bearing, first fluid thrust bearing and the second fluid thrust bearing must be shown or the feature(s)